

Friday 10th September 2010

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Praise be to **الله**.

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness in ourselves and from our bad deeds. Whomever God guides to the truth no one will lead astray, and whomever He leads astray, no one will ever guide.

I testify that there is no God but **الله** to whom there is no partner
and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

“O you who believe! Observe your duty to Allah with the care that is due to Him, and do not die except in a state of Islam” (Al-Imran, 3:102)

Dear brothers and sisters, ASA and Eid Mubarak. We have already started our celebrations earlier in the day and I was fortunate enough to be here for the second prayers. The atmosphere of brotherhood on a day like this should never be underestimated and should never be forgotten. We need to recall in our minds the warmth of greetings that each and everyone was giving to his brother and receiving from his brother earlier in the day. This is the blessings of Ramadan and the blessings of Eid. This is how by the blessings and grace of Allah we retain our brotherhood. The brotherhood of Islam is one of the greatest living legacy of the practicality of the religion of Islam and we should work very hard not to lose it.

“And hold fast, all of you together, onto the rope (our Deen) of Allah, and do not separate yourselves (create divisions). And remember and recall Allah's favour unto you: for you were enemies and He made friendship between your hearts so that by His grace you became as brothers” (Al-Imran, 3:103)

Brothers and sisters as we were reminded earlier today: do not throw away the blessings of brotherhood.

Brothers and sisters, in Arabic, the term Eid defines something that is “recurring” and something that will ISA, happen again. I ask Allah(SWT) to bless us with further goodness in our lives to witness future Eids with the blessings, mercy and peace of Allah(SWT). I am aware that we have already had an Eid khutbah today, and I am also aware that just like me, you want to get on with the celebration of this glorious day. For that, and in the spirit of Eid, I will ISA make this khutbah brief.

On a day like this the focus for this khutbah should start with the central concept that defines Islam for us and defines us as Muslims. This concept is that of “Tawheed”:

“Allah testifies that there is no god but He, standing firm on justice: and so testifies the angels and those endued with knowledge. There is no god but He, the Exalted in Power, the Wise” (Al-Imran, 3:18)

When the message of Islam came, the pattern of the deterioration and deviation of previous religions had already been established. A messenger of Allah(SWT) is sent to a community. There is an inevitable struggle for that community to resist change and to accept the concept of the One Allah and relinquish its long established false idols. In that Islam was no exception and this is what happened with Quraish when the Prophet(SAAWS) declared the message of “Tawheed”:

“For when they were told that there is no god worthy of worship but Allah, they would reject out of pride and arrogance” (As-Saafatt, 37:35)

Allah(SWT) not only tells us that they rejected the call to “Tawheed” but also tells us why people reject. It is basically out of pride and arrogance. You can guide someone who is ignorant by giving them knowledge, but it is extremely hard to guide someone who is arrogant and who is full of pride.

This is why on a day like this, on the day of Eid, we start our celebration by the testimony:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allah is the greatest. There no god worthy of worship except Allah and to Allah belongs all praise.

Despite the arrogance, the might and the standing of Quraish at that time, the word of Allah(SWT) was victorious:

وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا السُّفْلَىٰ وَكَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

“And Allah made the word of those who disbelieve the lowest, and Allah's Word is the uppermost. Allah is the Mighty, the Wise” (At-Tawba, 9:40)

The word of Allah is victorious for it declares the truth. Falsehoods can never overcome the truth. Yes, we have to struggle, and we have to be tested but Allah(SWT) tells us that Allah will grant us His victory:

حَتَّىٰ إِذَا اسْتَيْسَرَ الرُّسُلُ وَظَنُّوا أَنَّهُمْ قَدْ كُذِّبُوا جَاءَهُمْ نَصْرُنَا فَنُجِّىَ مَنْ نَشَاءُ وَلَا يُرَدُّ بَأْسُنَا عَنِ الْقَوْمِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ

“And just as the messengers despaired and thought that they were disbelieved, then came unto them Our victory, and We saved who we will. And Our wrath will not be warded from the criminals” (Yusuf, 12:110)

That was the usual sequence. The righteous struggle to bring truth and peace to a nation. Allah brings forth His victory and they believe in the one Allah. But then the inevitable sequence takes place. The first generation who witnessed the struggle and the deliverance will remember the messenger as a messenger of Allah and that the power is in Allah's hands. The second generation will start glorifying this messenger for what he did. The next generation, in fear of forgetting, will erect a statue or a monument in his memory. The next generation will start worshipping the statue and so on. This has been a recurring theme, and Islam was not going to let this happen. The message of “Tawheed” is central to Islam and this means that it must be preserved from a similar fate.

We the Muslims love our beloved Prophet(SAAWS) to the extent that we take him as our best of example as Allah(SWT) tells us:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ

“Indeed in the messenger of Allah you have the best of examples” (Al-Ahab, 33:21)

We love our Prophet(SAAWS). We love him for his character, we love him for his struggle for us, we love him because he is the most beloved of people to Allah and we obey him. But

we understand the concept of “Tawheed”, as he has explained it to us so clearly that we have never had the temptation to erect a statue or a monument for the Prophet(SAAWS). This in its own right was a monumental change in the way religions have evolved in the past. We all see statues of Jesus(PBH) and of Mary(PBH) as well as statues of saints where people seek forgiveness and seek help. Even Muslims have done that, but amazingly, to do that they have to go to a grave of a “righteous” person as we do not have statues. All praise be to Allah(SWT) for blessing us with Islam and for blessing us with “Tawheed”. We do not have to bow down to anyone and we do not need to seek anyone but Allah.

Throughout Ramadan, each and every one of us, standing next to each other, lifted our hands asking only of Allah(SWT) and no one else. We all turned our hearts towards its creator with the true belief that this is where our destiny lies. The “creationists” believe that it all ends with us returning to the dust of this earth. The Muslims believe otherwise. We will be resurrected from this earth and we will face our creator and we will face our deeds.



“They say: What! shall we indeed be returned to (our) former state? Even when we shall have become rotten bones” (An-Nazi’at, 79:10-1)

Yes brothers and sisters. This is Islam. In this day of celebration, when we look forwards to enjoy the blessings of Allah, we do it with the firm concept of the oneness of Allah and the belief in the Day of Reckoning.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمدُ لله ثم الحمد لله. الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفُسنا وسَيِّئات أعمالنا. أما بعد:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allah is the greatest. There no god worthy of worship except Allah and to Allah belongs all praise.

Brothers and sisters, in the most recent newsletter, we included an interesting article on Eid which defined this day for us in a different light and I like to share this with you again. This brings us to the next concept I want to talk about. To believe in a creator is the first step, but to develop a relationship with our creator, we need a guide, a manual.

All praise be to Allah(SWT) who has delivered for us the “guide” that defines for us what is right and what is wrong. It defines for us how to deal with our inner-self, how to deal with the outside world from people, to animals to the environment and so on, and how to deal with our creator.

"Ramadan is the (month) in which the Qur'an was sent down as a guide to mankind and a clear (Signs) for guidance and criterion (of what is right and what is wrong)" (Al-Baqara, 2:185).

This is what we celebrated during Ramadan standing the long hours of the night respecting, admiring and being moved by the beauty of the words as we listen to the recitations and as we read the Quran for ourselves. Ramadan in the month of the Quran and Eid-ul-Fitr celebration is a celebration of this Holy book of guidance.

Praise be to Allah for not letting us bow to anyone else but He. Praise be to Allah for giving us the brotherhood we enjoy and praise be to Allah for giving us this Holy book. This is what our Eid stands for. It does not stand for rowdy behaviour. It does not stand for “now I can do what I want; I have done my fast and have done my quiyam, and it is time for me to celebrate”. Some may have the misconception that Ramadan is an interim period of hardship that needs to be followed by a constant period of ease. In a sense, one fools oneself by saying I have done my bit. Let us not fall into this trap. Ramadan is a training period for us all. Ramadan brings us back to Allah, back to each other and equally important, back to our holy book.

Brothers and sisters, our last quiyam was no more than a few hours behind us. Having enjoyed this process and having been moved by the words of Allah, we now all stand at the usual cross road of Eid-ul-Fitr. In one direction it reads “backwards” and in the other it reads “forwards”. We brothers and sisters will have to make this decision quickly before the spirit of Ramadan slowly but surely becomes a distant memory for many of us including myself. I therefore remind myself before anyone else that for the impact of Ramadan to continue I need to move forwards and to continue, as we all need to continue, with the Book of Allah(SWT). This is the book that opens with:

ذَٰلِكَ ٱلْكِتَٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

“Indeed this is the Book without doubt; in it is guidance to those who are God conscious and fear Allah” (Al-Baqara, 2:2)

This is where we go a full circle, this is where we celebrate Eid.